



## Document Retention and Destruction Policy

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This Document Retention and Destruction Policy of the National Public Records Research Association identifies the record retention responsibilities of staff, volunteers, members of the Board of Directors, and outsiders for maintaining and documenting the storage and destruction of the association's documents and records.

1. **Rules:** The association's staff, volunteers, members of the Board of Directors and outsiders (i.e., independent contractors via agreements with them) are required to honor these rules: (a) paper or electronic documents indicated under the terms for retention below will be transferred and maintained by the association management offices or their equivalent; (b) all other paper documents will be destroyed after three years; (c) all other electronic documents will be deleted from all individual computers, data bases, networks, and back-up storage after one year; and (d) **no paper or electronic documents will be destroyed or deleted if pertinent to any ongoing or anticipated government investigation or proceeding or private litigation.**

### 2. **Terms for retention:**

#### a. Retain permanently:

- *Governance records* – Charter and amendments, Bylaws, other organizational documents, governing board and board committee minutes.
- *Tax records* – Filed state and federal tax returns/reports and supporting records, tax exemption determination letter and related correspondence, files related to tax audits.
- *Intellectual property records* – Copyright and trademark registrations and samples of protected works.
- *Financial records* – Audited financial statements, attorney contingent liability letters.

#### b. Retain for ten years:

- *Government relations records* – State and federal lobbying and political contribution reports and supporting records.

#### c. Retain for three years:

- *Lease, insurance, and contract/license records* – Software license agreements, vendor, hotel, and service agreements, independent contractor agreements, consultant agreements, and all other agreements (retain during the term of the agreement and for three years after the termination, expiration, non-renewal of each agreement).

#### d. Retain for one year:

*All other electronic records, documents and files* – Correspondence files, past budgets, bank statements, publications, policies and procedures, survey information.

3. **Exceptions:** Exceptions to these rules and terms for retention may be granted only by the association's President of the Board of Directors.